

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST  
VIRGINIA  
CHARLESTON DIVISION**

IN RE: ETHICON, INC. PELVIC  
2327 REPAIR SYSTEM PRODUCTS LIABILITY  
LITIGATION

MDL NO.

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**QUALIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER –  
SMITH STAG, LLC**

Smith Stag, LLC (“Smith Stag”) as counsel for certain plaintiffs in MDL 2327, has filed an Unopposed Motion requesting entry of an Order to aid in the resolution of liens asserted by Federal Medicare (part A and Part B), each State and/or Territory Medicaid Agency, the U.S. Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the U.S. Department of Defense, TRICARE, and Indian Health Services (collectively “Governmental Third-Party Payors”), against the settling Claimants, who are listed in Exhibit A of the Confidential Master Settlement Agreement (the “MSA”). The Motion seeks entry of an Order compliant with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (“HIPAA”), Pub.L. 104-191, 42 CFR § 431 Subpart F, titled “Safeguarding Information on Applicants and Recipients,” and other applicable privacy laws and is necessary to permit Governmental Third-Party Payors to transmit certain protected health information of the Claimants directly to: Providio Lien Counsel (“Providio”), a division of Providio MediSolutions; to assist in the resolution of the Governmental Third-Party Payors interests.

The Court, having reviewed the Motion and finding that receipt of certain information maintained by Governmental Third-Party Payors asserting a potential lien against recovery from the Qualified Settlement Fund (“QSF”), will aid the Administrators in the resolution of such liens as set forth in the MSA, hereby **FINDS** and **ORDERS** as follows:

1. The Motion [ECF No. \_\_\_\_\_] is **GRANTED**.

2. This Order shall apply to all “protected health information” and “individually identifiable health information,” as defined by 45 CFR §160.103, or information that is otherwise protected from disclosure by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. §551a, HIPAA, Pub.L 104191, 42 CFR § 431 Subpart F, titled “Safeguarding Information on Applicants and Recipients,” and other applicable state law, created, received or collected from Governmental Third-Party Payors, including, but not limited to: (a) names and addresses, dates of birth, social security numbers, identification numbers and other demographic information that identifies, or could be used to identify, eligible Claimants; (b) eligibility and entitlement information of Claimants; (c) claims information relating to the past, present, or future healthcare of Claimants; (d) claims information relating to the provision of healthcare to Claimants; and (e) claims information relating to the past, present, or future payment for the provision of healthcare to Claimants.

3. Governmental Third-Party Payors may disclose to Providio, and Providio is duly authorized to receive, Governmental Third-Party Payors’ claims and other protected health information for those Claimants in accordance with 45 CFR 164.506(c)(4)(ii), “[u]ses and disclosures to carry out treatment, payment or healthcare operations” and any other applicable state law.

4. To assist in the resolution of any Governmental Third-Party Payors’ interests, the Governmental Third-Party Payors are hereby authorized and directed to transmit to Providio any and all information, including Governmental Third-Party Payors claims information and other protected health information, for those Claimants in the above-captioned matters against whom they have asserted liens or reimbursement claims.

5. Providio is authorized to provide a list of Claimants to the Governmental Third-Party Payors that have been identified as a potential lien holder of respective Claimants (collectively,

“the Lists”).

6. Providio shall not use or disclose any protected health information or individually identifiable health information subject to this Order for any purpose other than this litigation and the performance of its duties. Similarly, each of the Governmental Third- Party Payors shall only use the Lists for the specific purposes identified in this Order. Each of the Governmental Third-Party Payors shall only make the Lists available to those within its respective agency or organization who need access to the Lists for the specific purpose stated in this paragraph. If any of the Governmental Third-Party Payors identified in this Order utilizes outside vendors or companies to perform part or all of its tort recovery practices, those outside vendors or companies shall be expressly bound by all terms and conditions of this Order.

7. Providio shall maintain any protected health information or individually identifiable health information subject to this Order in a secure and safe area and shall exercise the standard of due and proper care with respect to the storage, custody, use, and/or dissemination of such protected health information required by HIPAA and other applicable privacy laws.

8. At the conclusion of this settlement, Providio shall certify to the Governmental Third-Party Payors that the protected health information or individually identifiable health information, including all copies made, has been destroyed.

The Clerk is directed to send a copy of this Order to counsel of record and any unrepresented party.

ENTER:

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Joseph R. Goodwin  
United States District Judge